IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4, 7 and 11 as follows:

A\1

4.   (Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein, to detect a mutation of the protein sequence of the protease, a corresponding mutation is sought in the nucleotide sequence of the gene of said protease.

A\2

7.   (Amended) Nucleotide probe usable in the method according to Claim 1, comprising, as a minimum sequence, a sequence chosen from the group comprised of:

CCA AGA ATA for a mutated form of position 45.

CCA AGA GTA for a mutated form of position 45.

CCT AGA ATA for a mutated form of position 45.

TTT ATG AAC for a mutated form of position 54.

TTT ATG AAT for a mutated form of position 54.

GAA GTA AAA for a mutated form of position 64.

GAA GTA GAA for a mutated form of position 64.

AAC CTC TTT for a mutated form of position 84.

ATT ATG ACA for a mutated form of position 90.

ATC ATG ACA for a mutated form of position 90,

possibly supplemented by the nucleotide sequence of an adjacent region of the gene of said protease, on either side of the minimum sequence,

(b) a nucleotide sequence equivalent to a sequence defined in (a), and

(c) a sequence complementary to a sequence defined in (a) or in (b).

A\3

11.   (Amended) Method according to Claim 8, wherein, to detect a mutation of the protein sequence of the protease, a corresponding mutation is sought in the nucleotide sequence of the gene of said protease.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, the attached paper copy and computer-readable copy of the Sequence Listing are submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825. The contents of the paper copy and the computer-readable copy of the Sequence Listing are the same. No new matter is added. Support for the information provided in the Sequence Listing can be found in the specification on pages 9, 12 and 13. In